



**JOINT READINESS TRAINING CENTER  
AND FORT POLK  
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*News Release***



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Release Number: 041204

April 29, 2004

**DoD announces death of Louisiana soldier supporting Operation  
Iraqi Freedom**

DOD News release available at

<http://www.defenselink.mil/releases/2004/nr20040429-1165.html>

The Department of Defense announced today the death of a soldier supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Private First Class Marquis A. Whitaker, 20, of Columbus, Ga. died April 27<sup>th</sup> in Scania, Iraq after falling from a bridge. His vehicle was hit from behind by a civilian truck and left hanging off the side of the bridge. PFC Whitaker attempted to climb out of the vehicle but fell. PFC Whitaker was a Motor Transport Operator assigned to the Regimental Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 2<sup>nd</sup> Armored Cavalry Regiment, Fort Polk, La.

PFC Whitaker joined the Army November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2002 and arrived at Fort Polk April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2003.

A memorial service is being planned but no date has yet been set.

The incident is under investigation.

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